

Abstract

Print Job Assignment in a Reconfigurable Printing System

5 The present invention relates to a system and a method that facilitates the assignment of a print job in a printing system that has one or more printers (10,11,12) connected to a computer-based printing system (1) so that the printers economically match the requirements of a
10 print job generated by the printing system. Each printer (10,11,12) has a plurality of different printing configurations and each computer (2,3,4) is capable of generating at least one print job. Each print job has corresponding printing requirements and each printing
15 configuration being capable of satisfying one or more printing requirements. A print job, once created, is notionally assigned across one or more of the printers (10,11,12) in such a way that the printers have printing configurations that are capable of satisfying the printing
20 requirements. The cost for printing the print jobs is then calculated for that notional assignment. This calculation is repeated for different notional assignments, and then a preferred assignment of the, or each, print job is selected according to the calculated costs.

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Figure 1